

REMARKS

Applicant notes that the Examiner acknowledged the claim of foreign priority. Applicant encloses a certified copy of the priority document with this Response.

Applicant notes that no comment has been made with respect to the drawings. Applicant respectfully requests the Draftsperson to review the drawings and either accept or object to them.

The specification and, in particular, the Abstract was objected to as not meeting the proper format. The Abstract has been amended and withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claims 1-5 were pending and were rejected. Claims 1-5 have been canceled and new claims 6-22 are now presented. With regard to the 112 rejection directed to the original claims, we believe that the rejections are moot in view of the new claims.

Original claims 1-2 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Gosselin et al. Original claims 3 and 5 were rejected as being obvious in view of Gosselin et al. and the prior art described in the specification.

With respect to the anticipation rejection, Applicant contends that this rejection is moot. Gosselin et al. disclose and teach only release liners having a release agent formed of silicone-based material (see column 4, lines 47 to 48). In contrast, the present claims require the release sheet to have a releasing agent layer formed of a non-silicone based releasing agent. Moreover, specific non-silicone based releasing agents are defined in present claims 7, 9, 14, and 19. Therefore, because Gosselin et al. do not teach or suggest each and every limitation required by the claims, it cannot anticipate the claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

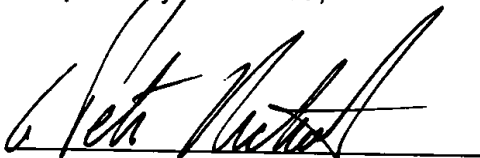
As for the rejection that the claimed invention would have been obvious, Applicant cannot agree. The presently claimed invention requires thermal transfer printing to form the various information on the releasing agent layer. As pointed out in the first paragraph on page 8 of the specification, it has been found that a releasing agent layer formed of a non-silicone based releasing agent such as polyolefin (e.g.

polyethylene) is particularly suitable to the thermal transfer printing since use of such non-silicone based releasing agent can provide good adhesion with the printed layer formed from the thermal transfer printing ribbon by the thermal transfer printing. In other words, the combination of thermal transfer printing and a release sheet having a releasing agent layer formed of non-silicone based releasing agent such as polyolefin (e.g. polyethylene) provides significant advantages over a releasing agent layer formed of a silicone based releasing agent. In fact, as a practical matter, it is quite difficult to form a printed layer on a release liner having a releasing agent layer formed of a silicone based releasing agent like Gosselin et al. Therefore, Applicant contends that Gosselin et al. in combination with the prior art described in the specification does not render obvious the present claims.

Claims 3 and 5 were also rejected as being obvious in view of the combination of Gosselin et al. and Yammano et al. The deficiencies of Gosselin et al. have been pointed out above. Yammano et al. does not cure those deficiencies. In fact, Yammano et al. is completely silent with respect to a releasing agent. Therefore, the combination does not teach or suggest the claimed release sheet.

If, for any reason, the Examiner feels that the above amendments and remarks do not put the claims in condition for allowance, the undersigned attorney can be reached at (312) 321-4276 to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Peter Nichols", written over a horizontal line.

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